improving their quality. The Industrial prototypes of newly designed agricultural equipments would pave the way for the availability of quality machines and implements to the farmers. Thus, these schemes would enhance the returns from agriculture by way of optimal utilisation of agricultural inputs and facilitate timeliness and precision in farm operations.

(d) With a view to advancing agricultural production, assistance is also provided to the farmers, among others, for acquiring agricultural implements and machines under various crop-specific programmes. Further, Government's efforts have been directed towards developing efficient agricultural machines and *implements; devising* improved agronomic practices; dissemination of improved technology and towards imparting skills to the users of agricultural machines for their operation maintenance and management.

Small farmers agri-business Consortium

8352. SHRI RAM RATAN RAM: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state.

(.a) whether the Small Farmers Agri-Business Consortium has come into existence;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the structure and function of the consortium;

(d) the amount of money at its disposal; and

(e) the action taken by it uptill now?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Small Farmers Agri-Busi-ness Consortium (SFAC) is a Society, registered on the 18th January, 94 under the Societies Registration Act, 1860. The Membership of the Society consists of Primary Members and Associate Members. All such institutions desirous of participating in the affairs and Business of the society can become Primary members of the society on admission by the Hoard of Management and by fulfiling conditions as may be prescribed from time to time. Non-Resident Indians. foreign companies, co-operative societies, corporate bodies and other organisations involved in agro-busffiiess and such other institutions/individuals interested in the functioning of the society, may be admitted as Associate Members, subject to the conditions laid down by the Board of Management.

There is a Board of Management consisting of 15 Members. The Union Agri-Culture Minister is the President of the Board of Management and the Union Agriculture Secretary *is its* ex-officio Vice-President. The Chief Executive of the SFAC namely the Managing Director shall be the Member-Secretary of the Board. Out of the remaining Members, four shall be nominated by the President and eigth shall be elected by the Primary Members of the society from the various categories set out in the Articles of Association. There is also a Special Provision for the President to nominate upto eight Members on the First Board in connection with the completion of the* formalities regarding registration and operationalising the business of the society.

The Articles of Association has envi saged that there will be a Policy Plan ning Council under the Chairmanship of Prime Minister of India to provide necessary direction as well as to review and evaluate the performance of the society periodically. The Membership of the Policy Planning Council shall in clude representation of various Minist ries/departments/financial institutions, farmers etc. as contained in the Articles of Association. SFAC is envisaged, to act essentially as a catalytic agent to promote agri business activities in the country. In! the performance of this role, SFAC will assist in and arrange for market surveys, Project studies and preparation training etc.

(d) During 1994-95 the Department of Agriculture & Cooperation made available

a budget provision of Rs. 1.00 crore for SFAC. During the current year (1995-96) the budget provision is Rs. 2.00 crores for SFAC and Rs. 2.35 crores as assistances to SFAC for implementation ifvarious approved schemes/activities of the Department. In addition, NA3ARD had contributed Rs. 0.75 crores out of their committed amount of Rs. 1.50 crores. The Oriental Bank of Commerce have also contributed Rs. 0.30 crores while State Bank of India have informed the Department of their contribution of Rs. 0.50 crores.

(e) Project Studies have been commissioned through M.S. Swaminarhan Research Foundation, Madras in respect of 12 identified districts namely Mehboob Nagar (A.P.), Barapetta (Assam), Valsed (Gujarat), Dharwar (Karnataka), Erna-kulam (Kerala), Jabalpur (M.P.) Gan-jam-Gajapati (Orissa), Pondicherry, Bikaner (Rajasthan), Dharmapuri (Tamil-liadu) Pithoragarh (U.P.). Mid-napore (West Bengal). The Project Reports of all the districts excepting 4 have been received. The reports have identified a number of areas like Horticulture. Aquaculture, Sericulture for undertaking Agri-business activities. Separately, a Study in respect of Pune District was also undertaken and completed, in order to consider the various issues and details of field level implementation of the Projects identified, a Workshop was held in New Delhi on 10-11- Feb., 1995 involving the Project Coordinators, State Nodal Offiper, NABARD, Commercial Banks etc. Further action in connection with the implentation of the Projects is being pursued by the State Government concerned.

Price hike of Mother Dairy Milk

8313. SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH:
SHRI ANANT RAM JAISWAL:
SHRI SATYA PRAKASH MALAVIYA:
SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have recently increased the price of Mother Dairy milk from Rs. 12.50/- per litre to Rs. 14.00 in Delhi, if so, the details thereof and reasons therefor;

(b) whether milk powder is also being imported from other countries, if so, details (country-wise) for the last two years till date indicating quantity thereof;

(c) what is the amount of foreign exchange spent thereon; and

(d) whether there is any likelihood of shortage of milk supply during the present summer seasons, if so, how Central Government propose to meet the full demand in Delhi and elsewhere?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ARVIND.NETAM): (a) Yes Sir. The Mother Dairy has revised the consumer price of milk w.e.f. 16-5-95 as the procurement price paid by Mother Dairy lor raw milk has risen. The details of price revision are as under:—

	Price/ litre before revision	Price/ litre after revision
	Rs.	Rs.
Full Cream Milk .	12.50	14.00
Toned Milk . .	8.50	9.00
Toned Milk in polypack . .	9.50	10.00

(b) and (c) A statement is enclosed. *(See* below):

(d) In the current summer season, shortages are not anticipated. However, the position of availability of liquid mijk is reviewed from time to time with a view to imposing restrictions on the manufacture of milk products so as to improve the level of milk supplies.